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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this book is to encourage children and adults in partnership to mobilize and put the prevention of bullying on the national agenda. Some teasing in childhood is inevitable, and it can be an important preparation for life. However, there is a point when teasing stops being helpful or playful, when it becomes humiliating or emotionally abusive, and when the victim requires protection from the teaser. If a certain level of teasing is inevitable, it is necessary to teach children to deal with it more confidently. The first step is to raise the child's awareness of when he or she is being bullied, when teasing constitutes abuse. A survey of 82 adults showed that 82% felt that they had experienced bullying abuse as children, and 31% of these respondents said the harm had been physical abuse. Forty-two percent of these respondents said that they themselves had treated others in ways that were harmful. The discussion is presented in the following chapters: (1) "The Case of Nathan"; (2) "Understanding the Dimensions of Bullying"; (3) "Physical Abuse"; (4) "Verbal Abuse"; (5) "Emotional Abuse"; (6) "Sexual Abuse"; (7) "Sibling Abuse"; (8) "Bullies and Victims"; (9) "Empowering Children"; (10) "Strategies for Adult Intervention"; (11) "Solutions and Successful Models"; and (12) "Challenges for Prevention." The prevention of violence in our society is inextricably linked to the prevention of child abuse. There are a number of strategies that can be adopted, including conflict resolution training, education to prevent prejudice based on race or ethnicity, and gun control. Five appendixes contain a list of 12 resources, the peer abuse survey form, a sample school board antibullying policy, Minnesota's Multicultural and Gender-Fair Curriculum Rule, and a harassment and violence prevention policy. (SLD)

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